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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. von WAGNER (Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF ALL DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.11

1. Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.11, said that over the past year there had been some truly remarkable achievements. First, the Conference on Disarmament had successfully concluded the negotiations on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention was an unprecedented global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable agreement, the first disarmament agreement, negotiated in a multilateral framework, which banned an entire category of existing weapons of mass destruction. Second, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 47/39 without a vote, calling upon all States to sign and to become parties to the Convention at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to its rapid entry into force and to the early achievement of universal adherence. Third, at a signing ceremony in Paris on 13 January 1993, 130 States had signed the Convention; 24 more States had since signed it, and 4 States had ratified it.

2. Under the Convention's provisions, a special responsibility was attributed to the Netherlands as host State for the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its Technical Secretariat. On 19 October 1993, the Committee had heard a statement by Dr. Kenyon, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission; he had expressed the general expectation that it would be possible for the Convention to enter into force early in 1995. There was therefore little time to have the required national infrastructure ready and in place on time.

3. The draft resolution thus had one overriding objective: to bring about the swift and effective implementation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, thereby ensuring the complete elimination of chemical weapons from the earth.

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.2

4. Mr. HOFFMAN (Germany), introducing draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.2, recalled that the Committee had last dealt with the topic of "Transparency of military expenditures" in 1991, when it had adopted a resolution without a vote. The sponsors felt that that item needed to be taken up again at the current session. Even after the end of the East-West confrontation, transparency in military matters was needed. That had been confirmed in the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, developed in the Disarmament Commission and endorsed in General Assembly resolution 47/54 B without a vote. It was widely accepted that transparency in military matters was a means of contributing to international peace and security, as was demonstrated by the participation of Member States in providing information to the Register of Conventional Arms. Meanwhile, the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures had not been revised since its

(Mr. Hoffman, Germany)

establishment in 1980; moreover, the participation of Member States was rather limited: only about 30 countries participated on a regular basis.

5. His delegation believed that the best way of achieving broader participation would be to review and modernize the reporting system. It hoped that as many Member States as possible, including those which had not yet participated in the reporting system, would submit their views on how the system could be improved so as to ensure broader participation.

6. Mr. NEAGU (Romania) said that the disappearance of bloc politics, East-West tensions and ideological differences and the consequent reduction of suspicion had created the necessary background for increased openness and transparency as a basis for the increased confidence which was a sine qua non for arms reduction. Increased transparency and confidence facilitated agreements on arms control and disarmament and in turn led to more cooperation and stability.

7. For the sake of greater openness, it was important to have information about the flow of imports and exports of armaments, as well as domestic acquisitions of arms and the evolution of military budgets. During the cold war, the participation of States in the standardized reporting system had been limited. The reporting system should now be improved to ensure more active participation in it. He hoped that other delegations would participate actively in the reporting system and provide views on strengthening the system.

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.16

8. Mr. BAICHORAU (Belarus), introducing draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.16 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Denmark, said that the draft resolution dealt with very sensitive matters and was important because it provided for a disarmament mechanism that would become operational as soon as the need arose: practical steps were envisaged that would be taken if new types of weapons of mass destruction were developed. In the past, it had been possible to rely on information from intelligence sources, since the development of traditional types of weapons of mass destruction involved a great deal of time and effort, and many people. With modern computer technology, an individual could create simple and deadly chemicals, and other means were being developed which would make it possible to create new and exotic weapons. The international community therefore needed to have its own machinery ready to deal with such unprecedented situations. The Secretary-General, in "An Agenda for Peace" and many other reports, had underlined his belief that United Nations security arrangements should not just react to events but should prevent certain kinds of events from endangering the international community. The draft resolution provided a contingency plan which could be put into effect if a dangerous situation developed.

9. The sponsors had taken into account the Committee's desire to rationalize its work and were therefore suggesting that the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" should be taken up again at the fifty-first session.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.